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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,724	09/30/2003	Vibhu Mittal	16113-1300001	2943
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EXAMINER				
CHEN, TE Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2161				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/07/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,724

Applicant(s)

MITTAL ET AL.

Examiner

SUSAN Y. CHEN

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Aug. 11, 2008 has been entered.

This office action is in response to the amendment filed on Aug. 11, 2008.

Claims 14-21 are pending for examination; claims 1-13 and 22-45 have been canceled. Claims 14 has been amended.

Specification

The amended disclosure as filed on Aug. 11, 2008 has been noted by the Office and was placed on record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 14-21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,593 issued to Hargrave et al. (hereinafter referred as Hargrave).

Claim 14:

Hargrave discloses a search method comprising:

obtaining a query including one or more terms, each term written in a first format from a user [e.g., col. 5, lines 10 – 22, the source to target language formatting in Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 66–67, col. 13, lines 24 – 30, the step 903, Fig. 9];

translating the one or more terms of the query into a group of translated queries, each translated query having one or more terms in a second format using a probabilistic dictionary, the probabilistic dictionary mapping terms from the first format to the second format [e.g., the use of bilingual dictionaries at col. 1, lines 18 – 22, the use of computer software to perform probabilistic dictionary language translation at col. 5, lines 22 – col. 8, line 60, the software of Translation Memory (TM) system of Fig. 1 encodes, converts and decodes the query language in query format into a computer readable format, Fig. 1 and associated texts];

searching a database for information responsive to one or more translated queries of the group of translated queries [e.g., col. 2, lines 38-44, col. 4, lines 22-26 &

col. 5, lines 10 – 22, the detect matching of the fuzzy retriever in Fig. 9, col. 14, lines 6 - 8]; and

returning search results written in the second format to the user, the search results referencing one or more documents responsive to the one or more translated queries [e.g., the use of correlation and linking back techniques at col. 12, lines 50 - 55, Fig. 9 and associated texts].

Claim 15:

Except the limitations recited in claim 14, Hargrave further discloses:
obtaining search result selections from the user [e.g., the steps: 903-907, Fig. 9];
using said search result selections to modify the probabilistic dictionary of term mappings [e.g., col. 13, lines 20 – 57, the steps: 903-913, Fig. 9].

Claim 16:

Except the limitations recited in claim 15, Hargrave further discloses the modification comprises adjusting at least one probability associated with at least one mapping in the probabilistic dictionary [e.g., col. 5, lines 1-9, Fig. 9 and associated texts].

Claim 17:

Except the limitations recited in claim 14, Hargrave further discloses the step of translating the query into the second format includes expanding the query [e.g., col. 13, lines 41-57].

Claim 18:

Except the limitations recited in claim 17, Hargrave further discloses the expanded query includes alternative encodings of the query terms [e.g., col. 14, lines 1-16].

Claim 19:

Except the limitations recited in claim 17, Hargrave further discloses the expanded query includes alternative language translations of the query terms [e.g., col. 14, lines 16-17].

Claim 20:

Except the limitations recited in claim 17, Hargrave further discloses the expanded query includes alternative encodings and alternative language translations of the query terms [e.g., [e.g., col. 14, lines 1-17].

Claim 21:

Except the limitations recited in claim 18, Hargrave further disclose the expanded query includes synonyms of the alternative encodings of the query terms [e.g., col. 2, lines 38-63].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on Aug. 11, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner disagrees with applicant's arguments based on newly amended limitations that "Hargrave does not return search results referencing one or more documents responsive to one or more translated queries."

In reply to the above arguments the examiner directs applicant attention to Fig(s) 6-7 and following excerpts of Hargrave:

"The posting vectors file 405 includes the posting vectors for each n-gram in the index file 409. Each posting vector in posting vector file 405 is located at a unique address in the posting vector file 405 associated with one n-gram in index 409 as suggested by the arrow in FIG. 4. An example structure of the postings vector file 405 is shown in FIG. 6. In order to simplify and expedite indexing and retrieval using the FAST-INV type algorithm, postings vector file 405 lists text segment ID numbers rather than directly referring to the unique address of each text segment in aligned file 403. This can be eliminated if another indexing and retrieval algorithm is used." (col. 12, lines 38 - 49)

"Correlation file 407, illustrated in detail in FIG. 7, is used to store information correlating each text

segment ID number in postings vector file 405 with the unique address in the aligned pair file 403. Each posting vector in file 405 can thus be linked back to a number of text segments in aligned pair file 403 using the correlation file 407.” (col. 12, lines 49 – 55)

As set forth above Hargrave clearly disclosed a FAST_INV indexing and retrieval system which allows the system correlates and links back to reference a number of documents. Thus, in contrary to applicant's arguments, Hargrave clearly disclosed the claimed features.

As to the rest of arguments, they merely rehashes issues already addressed above, thereby, the rejections on record are maintained.

Conclusion

To expedite the process of re-examination, the examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues set forth by the Examiner prior to the office action, that applicant should provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y. Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mofiz Apu can be reached on 571-272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Susan Y Chen/
Partial Sig. Examiner
Art Unit 2161

September 23, 2008